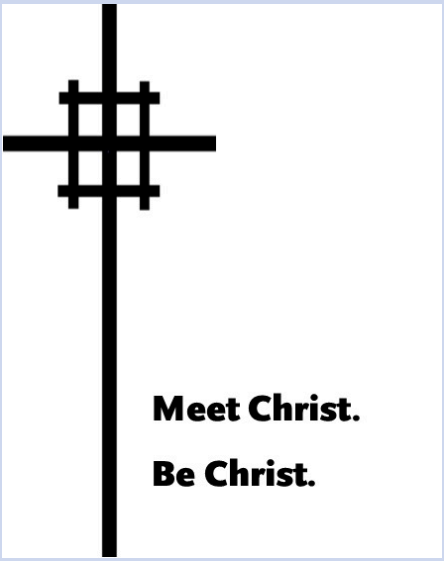

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

The Potter *by Fr. Randy+*

"Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as the potter has done?" (Jeremiah 18:6)

Our family has been cleaning out my mother's townhome for the past several weeks. My mother died a year ago, and finally the estate and probate concerns are being finalized. Hence, the house must be cleared out in preparation for the sale. It is a task nobody wants to tackle, memories and possessions collected over a lifetime. Anyone who has faced this monumental task understands the emotional tugs as well as the realities of closing a chapter on a beloved's life. It is an exercise on prioritizing, spiritual cleansing, and physical and emotional healing. It is a time to return to self-care in body, mind, and spirit.

Research has shown that one of the most effective ways to stay healthy is to exercise consistently. But there's a catch: If we dive right into working out without having first stretched and warmed up our muscles, we'll end up feeling sore and stiff. And we'll end up avoiding exercise altogether.

The same is true of our spiritual lives. The reading from Jeremiah describes a potter who, seeing that the clay isn't forming correctly, reshapes it. He manipulates it and stretches it so that it becomes soft again, more responsive to his work, and open to change.

When sifting through my mother's possessions, much of what I sought out to keep were handmade pots and vessels created by my favorite high school teacher and hockey coach, Dave Gehrke. He was a master potter and taught me how to work clay, turn pots on a potter's wheel, apply glaze, and fire a final piece. Many of my creations were not masterpieces, but I discovered much from the creative process and learned to appreciate the wisdom and knowledge passed along by a master.

In a sense, this is what God desires from us: hearts that are still soft enough to be shaped. But like muscles that haven't been warmed up, our hearts can

grow stiff and resistant. We get set in our ways. And when God nudges us to change a habit, to forgive someone, or to try something new, we tend to resist. He wants to shape us and form us in ways that will make us happier and bring us closer to him, but we don't like to change.

It's not always comfortable being on the potter's wheel. As it spins, the potter presses, stretches, and coaxes the clay to do his bidding. And yet, in the hands of a skilled potter, that pressure is transformational!

Through Jeremiah, God tells us that he has both the power and the desire to shape us according to his will. Whether through situations in our lives or through the voice of our consciences, God is continually working to take whatever is misshapen in us and form it into something new and beautiful. He doesn't do it out of anger or frustration but out of mercy, grace, and love. Like any potter working clay, God has a vision in his mind for what we can become, and he will continue to turn his wheel until that vision becomes a reality. Nothing can stop God except our own stiff resistance.

So today, imagine yourself as soft clay. Let God stretch you and shape you. Trust the hands that hold you. The potter is patient, and his vision for your life is more beautiful than anything you could form alone.
Randy+

In Memory

We are sad to announce the passing of Lynn Baxter on August 9th. A service is in the planning stages at this time. We will update you when we know more!

Rest eternal grant to Lynn, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.
May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

School Supply Collection ENDS THIS SUNDAY

Bring your donations to the Lower Narthex by August 16, where we are collecting supplies for Roseville Area Schools. They need all of the typical school supplies for children in elementary through high school. If you would

prefer a monetary donation, please put it in Marion's mailbox and label it "school supplies." We have shoppers who would be thrilled to put it to good use!

ECMN Night at the Saints

Friday, September 11th is ECMN Night at the Saints – This is more than just a game; it's a day to connect, celebrate fellowship, and enjoy the spirit of community. Starting at 5pm, savor delicious bites and share in the joyous atmosphere with friends old and new at the Cub a Cabana. The game starts at 6:37 pm. Bring your family, bring your friends, and bring your spirit of joy—this event promises to be a divine evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, baseball! You can purchase tickets for just the game ($29), or for the game and dinner ($54).

Click here to reserve tickets with the St. Christopher's block – I will buy the tickets all together so that we can sit in a group. You will pay St. Christopher's, and I will get reimbursed. Deadline is Sunday, August 23.

Click here to choose your *own* tickets in the ECMN block.

State Fair Park-n-Ride Returns!

The State Fair dates for 2026 are August 27 - September 7

Please sign up **BY** SUNDAY, **AUGUST 16** to volunteer for a parking shift - morning or afternoon; no evenings - and help fair-goers park and get to the bus to the Fairgrounds. We need to finalize scheduling - right now, **16** time slots are still open! You can sign up on the clipboards in the upper Narthex, or, use this link to choose your time slot(s)! Park-N-Ride Sign Up

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

August 16: Pentecost 12 (Proper 15), Year A

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28.

August 23: Pentecost 13 (Proper 16), Year A

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

Sunday Ministries August 16

9:30 AM

Nursery - Janet C
Lectors - Kathy A, Ardis G
Intercessor - Chris B
LEM - Ardis G, Marion H
Crucifer - Marion H
Acolytes - Charlotte B, Gradie M
Ushers - Ann & Larry J
Altar Guild - Ann T, Kathy A
Coffee Hosts - Connie H, Jane S

Prayer List Requests

Have you noticed a “Prayer Requests” button on our website? This is a very short form to add a name to our prayer list! Requests will be monitored Monday through Friday and added to the list published on Fridays. You may, of course, still call or email the office to add or remove a name from the list.

(Please note: There is NO way to reply to the prayer request form.)

Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?

You can now sign up to receive the weekly Parish Mail and monthly ***e-Traveler*** in your own inbox. A sign-up form is now on the main page at our website. Just go to www.stchristophers-mn.org.

www.stchristophers-mn.org

Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave N | Roseville, MN 55113 US

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